

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
 COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
)
 IN THE MATTER OF:)
 COMPLAINT C2011-048)
)
 State Ethics Commission,)
 Complainant;)
)
 vs.)
)
 Bernice G. Scott,)
 Respondent.)
 _____)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

CONSENT ORDER

STATE ETHICS
 COMMISSION

2012 JUL 12 PM 4: 28

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This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission by virtue of a complaint filed by the Commission on January 14, 2011. The complaint against the Respondent, Bernice G. Scott, was considered by the Commission on May 18, 2011 and probable cause found to warrant an evidentiary hearing. The Notice of Hearing alleged eleven violations. Prior to the call of the case Respondent agreed to entry of the following statement of facts, conclusions of law, admission, and disposition in this matter as follows.

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STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. The Respondent, Bernice G. Scott, was a member of Richland County Council and she was required to file Campaign Disclosure forms (CD).
2. Respondent advised that Mildred Johnson was responsible in her campaign for preparing her CDs and maintaining her campaign bank account. Respondent's CDs filed show that Ms. Johnson was being paid for these services.
3. Mildred Johnson conceded that the CDs she filed on behalf of Respondent were totally inaccurate because she just wanted to get the CDs filed. She stated the reason the

CDs she filed do not show activity from 2004 is due to the fact that the online filing process would not allow her to enter data from 2004. Thus, she used more recent dates for the entries. Ms. Johnson stated she was experiencing medical problems in the form of anxiety and depression during the time frame in question.

4. Respondent through Ms. Johnson did file amended campaign reports. A comparison of the first reports and the amended reports was made as follows:

July 2004 report	Amended report
Zero contributions	\$9650.00 contributions
Zero expenditures	\$13770.00 expenditures
October 2004	Amended report
\$525.00 contributions	\$11647.00 contributions
\$150.00 expenditures	\$7699.00 expenditures
January 2005	Amended report
Zero expenditures	\$5467.89 expenditures
April 2005	Amended report
Zero contributions	\$2750.06 contributions
\$100.00 expenditures	\$875.00 expenditures
July 2005	Amended report
Zero contributions	\$100.11 contributions
Zero expenditures	\$1758.73 expenditures
October 2005	Amended report
Zero expenditures	\$1365.00 expenditures
April 2006	Amended report
Zero expenditures	\$300.00 expenditures.

5. Respondent's campaign account has been closed and a corrected final report was filed on January 10, 2011.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Commission concludes, as a matter of law:

1. During all times relevant, the Respondent, Bernice G. Scott, was a public official as defined by Section 8-13-1300(28).
2. The State Ethics Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.
3. Section 8-13-1308(F) provides that all contributions and expenditures to a candidate, to include in-kind contributions and expenditures, must be disclosed on the campaign disclosure form.

ADMISSIONS

The Respondent, Bernice G. Scott, admits she inadvertently violated Sections 8-13-1308(F) of the Ethics Reform Act.

DISPOSITION

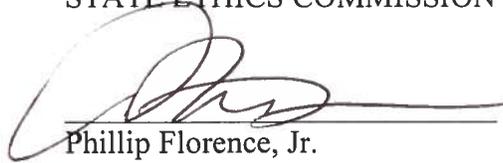
The State Ethics Commission hereby finds Respondent Bernice G. Scott in violation, albeit inadvertent, of Section 8-13-1308(F) of the Ethics Reform Act and hereby adopts the Statement of Facts, Conclusions of Law, Admissions, and Disposition as agreed upon by Respondent.

THEREFORE, the State Ethics Commission hereby issues a written reprimand to Respondent Bernice G. Scott for her violations of Sections 8-13-1308 of the Ethics Reform Act,

AND, orders Respondent to pay an administrative fee of \$1,100.00 within six months of receipt of the signed order,

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 19th DAY OF July 2012.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



Phillip Florence, Jr.
Chairman



Bernice G. Scott
Respondent